

Message Text

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65

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AID-05 IO-13 ACDA-07 (ISO) W

----- 095071

R 230820Z AUG JYY

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6908

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N S I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2028

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: R

5-& : PFOR FR LA

SUBJECT: FRENCH RELATIONS WITH LAOS; LAO OCCUPATION OF FRENCH SCHOOL

REF VIENTIANE 1998

1. FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR LAMBERT IN AUGUST 23 CALL ON EMBOFF SAID THAT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS EXTREMELY ANNOYED ABOUT LAO OCCUPATION OF FRENCH EMBASSY SCHOOL AND WAREHOUSE REPORTED REFTEL. LAMBERT THROUGHT THAT BECAUSE OF THIS THERE WAS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT THE FRENCH WOULD NOT SEND A DELEGATION TO LAOS AS PLANNED FOR WIDE-RANGING POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL DISCUSSIONS.

2. LAMBERT SAID THAT BOTH THE FRENCH CONSUL AND AMBASSADOR DUZER HAD MADE INFORMAL PROTESTS TO THE LAO CALLED ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER KHAMPHAY BOUPHA, THE LATTER SAID THAT THERE WAS NOTHING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY COULD DO ABOUT THE OCCUPATION OF THE FRENCH BUILDINGS
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BY LAO INFORMATION MINISTRY EMPLOYEES.

3. LAMBERT ADDED THAT DUZER PLANNED TO PROTEST AGAIN ON AUGUST 23 OR 24 TO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRA-SEUTH, WHO RETURNED FROM COLOMBO AUGUST 21 WITH THE LAO DELEGATION. LAMBERT DID NOT THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THE LAO WOULD EVER RETURN THE OCCUPIED PROPERTIES TO THE FRENCH.

CORCORAN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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